

1979

I would like to begin my report by making a few comments on this summer. Unfortunately, our registration was rather low this year. I am unable to fathom why this was so. We placed advertisements in two English newspapers but got no results from those ads. Perhaps the old yellow posters for Kamp Kanawana, Les Voyageurs and Wilderness Camp could be updated and posted in Y Branches and schools. This may help create an interest in both camps.

It is not viable to implement a complete marketing scheme for camp, but I do have a few suggestions that may be used in the future. The posters are one which might prove successful. In addition, we might contact the publisher of one of the coloured sections (ie The Weekend and The Canadian) carried on weekends by newspapers. An article in one of these magazines might do much to promote interest in Y camps. T-shirts for Les Voyageurs would be a good way to get some coverage. I know that there is a sketch of a print that could be turned into a silkscreen for printing on T-shirts. Contact Eric Sandmark for this sketch. There is also a slide show available for use. Some of the slides are owned by the Y and some are privately owned. It would not cost much for the camp to purchase copies of the private slides. This slide show could be used for those who express an interest in the camp.

I found that this summer ran smoothly with the exception of some problems with the truck and trailer. In future years I think that the staff for Les Voyageurs should all be in camp one week before the first trip goes out. This will allow adequate time to plan and prepare for the trips. This would also leave enough time to pack the food for the whole summer. If everything is prepared before the first trips go out then much of the time between trips may be used as days off. It is important that trippers have at least two days off between trips. If possible more time should be allowed. Three two week trips in a row makes for a fairly gruelling summer. However, it is the Director's responsibility to ensure that things are organized well enough to allow staff adequate time off.

In regards to equipment and food there should be drawn-up, before camp, lists of everything to be taken on each trip from canoes to matches. This would help in packing. These should be typed and copies made. They can be updated as necessary.

I might comment here that the lower age of campers should be raised from 13 years to 14 years. In general 13 year olds do not profit that much from their experience. There, of course, are exceptions. I think at the very least that 13 year old applicants should be interviewed by staff members.

This year we began to keep information files on campers. The purpose of this is to have records of previous campers so that the staff has a better idea of the personality and skills of these returning campers.

Coed Trips:

Two out of five trips this summer were coed trips. I can see no reason for not continuing this practice. I think it would be best that if there were two trips going out at the same time, that one be coed and one males or females only. Not all people are interested in coed trips. If registration permits then all girl trips should be encouraged.

With the advent of second staff, or trippers-in-training, it has been necessary to increase the size of each trip. It is not financially viable to send out two canoes with two staff and four campers. As such the standard group in the future will be three canoes, two staff and up to seven campers. Although this does make the group slightly slower and cumbersome it works quite well. Anyway, there is very little 'wilderness' left in the La Verendrye area and it is not as important as it once was to have highly mobile 'disciplined' groups.

Reference should be made to Jim Pelton, John Kennedy and Diane Morrisette for more information on these groups.

Unfortunately, due to low registration I had to cancel both three week canoe trips. I don't think that these trips should be cancelled altogether but should be continued. If changes must be made then there should be one three week trip at least which is led by an experienced tripper. The campers would be potential second staff. The purpose of these trips would be to explore and/or open up new country for Les Voyageurs. This should be a priority due to the ever increasing 'traffic' in and around Parc de la Verendrye.

I mention now that there is a need for a Voyageur staff canoe trip before the summer. This would help acclimatize both trippers and second staff. It would allow staff to learn new skills from each other and to observe other styles of canoe tripping. This trip need not be long, three days should be sufficient. The experience would be invaluable in the amount of knowledge transferred among staff.

I think that second staff members should be paid \$50.-\$75. per trip taken out. Perhaps \$75. is a bit high but it is unreasonable to assume that we can attract the necessary individuals without giving them any type of financial reward.

Brochure:

Again the brochure might be updated. I heard a few comments from campers to this effect. However, most campers felt it sufficient.

One comment I would like to make is that I question the changing of covers. I think the previous cover was much better and in itself conveyed a message. I have enclosed a copy of the original cover to the brochure in appendix I.

Staff:

This summer the only tripper to work with me was Jim Pelton. Considering he was somewhat lacking in previous tripping experience he performed his job admirably. I can see no reason for not hiring him next year. He worked very well with campers and managed his trips well. I think he learned a lot from this summer and if I were Director next year I would not hesitate in hiring him if he gets his St. Johns Ambulance certificate and updates his Bronze medallion.

When confronted with an accident, not quite of emergency proportion, he acted well and with forethought. His spirit is very good. The only exception that I may point out is that by the end of the third 2 week trip he was beginning to burn out. He might perhaps spend his days off getting a touch more rest and relaxation in years to come.

If Jim wishes to return next year then I think that he should be sent to Canoeing School in order to consolidate and enhance his canoeing skills. I think that this would be beneficial to both Jim and the camp. Jim is someone who is worth keeping around Les Voyageurs for future years.

The only adverse comments I can make I can also explain. I found his attitude in and around camp to be a little exaggerated, immature and self-defeating. I am not saying that these patterns of behaviour were predominant or even prevalent but they were apparent to myself. However, it must be considered that he did, successfully, take out three 2 week canoe trips in his first year as a tripper. I think these behavioral characteristics were out of tune for him and were a result of the responsibilities and stresses of a tripper taking extensive canoe trips. I am quite certain these practices will not be repeated in the future. I must mention that I, myself, acted in a similar manner in my first year as a Voyageur tripper. Again, I recommend that Jim Pelton be rehired if he applies.

Robert D. Woodhouse

Director

Andre Masson

Andre was my second staff member on two trips for a total of four weeks. In general I am impressed with Andre. His skills are quite good in almost all areas. If he wishes to return to Les Voyageurs in future years he must get his Bronze in swimming and his St. Johns Ambulance. I also strongly recommend that he get to go to Woodsmanship School before working as a tripper. This would allow him to consolidate his skills.

The only area where I was disappointed with Andre was that he tended to be a little dictatorial with campers. This is not a major problem as this tendency is not an extreme case. Again I think a course at the Woodsmanship School would modify this behavior.

Andre's canoeing skills are good but not exceptional. However, these skills may be picked up with more experience. If he wishes to return for more than one year he should be sent to a Canoeing School.

His campsite skills are good but he could benefit from a few camp-craft sessions in Kanawana as well as going to Woodsmanship School. Andre's map reading skills are fair but he shows great interest and potential. I would not consider this area a problem.

Overall, I think Andre would make a good Voyageur tripper. He is able to establish a good rapport with campers. I think he would be better off if his assistant tripper had good experience.

If Andre applies for the job and has acquired the necessary qualifications and is willing to go to Woodsmanship School he should be accepted.

If time and money permit Canoeing School would be beneficial.

Andre might be considered for a position as counsellor at Kamp Kanawana. I'm not sure if he would receive this suggestion with any sort of gratitude. He would also make a good camp tripper if such was the case.

Robert D. Woodhouse  
Director

Diane Morissette

Kanawana C.I.T. - Ago 16

2 week coed trip - total 9 people

Diane Morissette is the consummate Voyageur. She displays the full range of qualities and talents necessary to be 'tripping material' par excellence. These abilities are doubly effective by virtue of her bilingualism.

She steered canoes with a variety of paddlers over the course of two weeks. Her skills were strained only once when the Bowman weighed twice as much as she. The fault of this was mine and she didn't complain.

At camp she had full knowledge of the routines and duties, and she both supervised and aided in their execution. As in a canoe, there was seldom any questioning of her abilities or authority. Reaction in her canoes was both swift and accurate; when Diane said "got out", they got out - fast. Generally her skills and her ability to communicate them were amazing.

On portages this girl was tough. She outperformed nearly all the guys physically and never was there a word of complaint except to confirm my own feeling of annoyance.

Her coordination on some unbelievably mucky terrain was excellent (despite infrequent problems with her ankles). Her awareness was perfect - she always knew where everything/everyone was and her ability and willingness to engage the most difficult challenges proved to be an inspiration to all others. It was here that her leadership abilities were most evident. She leads by example rather than command.

Her organizational abilities with regard to food, campsites and other things are superb without question. As is proper she was also aware of who wore what clothes on any given day insuring that all campers had a supply of dry clothes.

She could also cook.

In conclusion, I would like to say that Diane Morissette is a vivacious, energetic, aware and responsible second staff. Her toughness and strength of character are most admirable.

I do not wish to make a 16 year old girl sound superhuman. She is 16 and this is evident, but the character suited for tripping is often a black and white sort of thing - either you have it or you don't. This charming and gutsy young lady has it!

Jim Pelton  
Voyageur Tripper

Diane Morrissette

I had the time to observe Diane this summer under tripping conditions. She was a C.I.T. on the trip I took out for Kamp Kanawana. She was helpful in all capacities. She is able to establish a good rapport with campers while maintaining a staff member's position. There were no problems around the campsite as she is a willing worker and shows good judgement. Her skills are good.

I also spent five days with Jim Pelton's group on which Diane was the second staff member. Even among campers her own age she had few problems maintaining an authority position.

Diane will be an excellent staff person. It would be well worth the camp's time to encourage her in achieving skills.

The only problems I can foresee is that due to her age she may let her position 'go to her head'. I don't think this is likely and it is not a thing that should block her progress. I would accept her as a second staff member next summer although she may be good counsellor material. If such is the case she should be encouraged to do both.

Robert D. Woodhouse  
Director

John Kennedy

K.K. Master Canoeist

Les Voyageurs Second Staff

John Kennedy was my second staff for the first Voyageurs trip I ever led. He was also my second staff for the last trip of the season. Through the four weeks of tripping together we developed a tripping style unique unto ourselves along with a good friendship. Between the two of us we managed to cause both confusion and excitement among the interpersonal relations in both groups. This somehow prevented the occurrence of an "underdog" in both trips. On these trips we also managed to introduce some of the kids to music (with harmonicas) and poetry (Rudyard Kipling being most popular).

John is an excellent canoeist, this summer receiving the Kanawana Masters. He was extremely beneficial for both the campers and myself in this respect. Furthermore, he has an ability to "read" rapids allowing us the opportunity to "shoot" what we would otherwise have to avoid. By teaching the skills necessary and leading the way John greatly enhanced the travelling pleasure on trips. His canoe skills are invaluable to the Voyageurs and serious consideration should be given to furthering his abilities. For this I would consider sending John and possibly myself to a certified canoe school. This would be of value in at least two ways: 1) it would enable Les Voyageurs to confidently and safely engage in exploratory trips, which seem at least potentially of great benefit considering the developing popularity of Parc de la Verendrye. 2) secondly, in the probable development of greater public concern for canoe safety, especially with kids the credentials and abilities of Les Voyageurs would not be questioned. This motion, I feel, is in line with the already implemented concept of second staff.

In the same vein John and myself should both, without doubt, be trained by qualified persons in First Aid and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation.

I personally feel that, in this area, (medical problems) John would greatly benefit from courses. If John has a fault, its overaction in precisely this area - he tends to be excited to excess by blood. His reactions are of the "oversafe" variety which isn't bad as such but it indicates that movement from reason to emotion which an amount of knowledge will contain.

This reactionary tendency is in marked contrast to other aspects of John's personality on trips. He sometimes tends towards a go-for-broke attitude which is a fantastic infection of energy for the whole group.

John Kennedy (Cont'd)

On the other hand I have found myself taking the opposite course of action on occasion which somewhat dampens spirits as a result. In a sense this makes us a dynamic pair and the trips have something of both of us in them, but the aforementioned tendency may indicate a couple of things: 1) that John has yet to recognize some types of limits (usually physical or logistical) that I have become aware of. 2) that I, as a tripper tend to hesitate on certain questions from a sense of responsibility (and sometimes, honestly, instruct) and given the same responsibility I suspect he would be more conservative.

In any event, it is this balance between wild and tame that John must develop. It may be that by next year John will have the necessary maturity - he certainly has the skills. I will reserve recommendations on his "promotion" on that account, along with the age considerations. (My conservatism?)

Jim Pelton  
Les Voyageurs Tripper '79

John Kennedy

I was pleased with what I saw of John this summer. Unfortunately, I was not able to see him in a tripping situation but all reports I received of his performance were good.

I think that John needs to mature a bit more before he is ready to become a Voyageur tripper. Perhaps I misread him and he needs more skills in certain areas such as First Aid and swimming. His canoeing and campcraft skills are admirable. I would recommend that he go to Woodsmanship School next year. Perhaps he would learn a different manner in accepting responsibility as well as learning new skills.

John is definitely good tripping material and will be a good addition to Les Voyageurs staff. He also might be considered for positions in camp. A year as a counsellor might be good for him but I am not sure if he is suited for such a position.

He might also be considered as a Canoeing Director. I think he has the skills for this position. However, the Director of Kanawana must decide if John's mentality is right for this position. If he is accepted in this position he should be sent to Canoeing School to receive his Instructors.

John also might be a good camp tripper. It is also feasible that for his first year as a tripper he might work for both K.K. and Les Voyageurs.

In any case, he must get his St. Johns Ambulance and his Bronze in swimming award for any position.

Robert D. Woodhouse  
Director

Food:

In the spring a master menu should be drawn up. It is important that this menu be used for all trips. Once the menu is drawn up and the projected number of campers determined (taken for the year's financial budget - projected revenues) then the quantities of food may be determined. I have included a menu from the summer of 1979 (Appendix II). This may be used as a guideline. There is one for 2 and 3 week trips feeding 6 people and one for 2 week trips feeding 9 people. In addition I have included some comments on the food used this past summer.

I wish to note that if possible the menu should be gone over by a dietitian, preferably one who has some knowledge of tripping.

This year I ordered from Hardee, Gumperts and Silver Foods. In addition, I bought other foods that were not needed in bulk from Provegain in St. Sauveur. It was also necessary at times to purchase food from depanneurs on the way to the Park. Perhaps better planning could relieve this problem. I was satisfied with the service of all suppliers. When ordering the Director should obtain the new price lists at least a month before camp.

Once the desired quantities are known the food should be ordered so that it arrives at the very least one week before the first trip. Allow approximately one week for delivery. This gives about two weeks before camp that the food is ordered and should be sufficient to avoid shock-outs on the part of the distributors. I have always had the food delivered to camp. Note: that this year I stored all food in the ground floor bedroom of the Farmhouse. Doing this avoided loss of food due to animals because the shed is not animal, or human proof.

I might mention here that plastic bags should be bought in bulk. If we cannot get them from the company (Glad Bags) we should try Silver Foods. If this is not successful we can buy them in most Pascal's by the case. Quantities should be approx. 1000 small sized bags and 1000 medium sizes. I have found that these bags are the best for two week trips as they are of a heavy gauge. The bags from Page's are only fair and available in only one size. They also don't have twist ties.

New Food Used:

Hardee Freeze Dried Porc Patties

- proved to be very good. Gave a change from the predominantly beef dinners. It takes a little longer to cook but turns out very well. Tends to be a bit expensive but is only used for one or two meals per trip. Should be re-ordered.

New Food Used Cont'd:

Hardee Instant Apple Sauce

- worked out well. However, there was a tendency to use it in cooking main dishes. Much better than the Gumperts product. Re-order.

Hardee Pineapple Tidbits

- excellent. Very good in certain recipes.

Re-order, one case is sufficient unless menu is changed substantially.

Hardee Sliced Mushrooms

- excellent, used in a number of dinners. Should be re-ordered and planned into meals.

Hardee Strawberries

- tasted good but not useful - do not re-order.

Hardee Carrots

- should be dropped completely from menu. Taste is overbearing.

This year we dropped Hardee Chicken Stew from our menu. There was no misgivings in doing this. The Beef Stew and Chicken Stew taste somewhat similar. In fact the least desirable dinner on the menu was the prepared Beef Stew. This meal might be replaced if a suitable substitute is found.

An alternative to the Beef and/or Chicken Stews might be the new Hardee Irish Stew. It has a comparable price.

The Hardee Chicken has increased in price substantially. The quantities bought should be kept down. Two meals per trip should be sufficient. The chicken meals give an excellent break to the more common beef dinners.

Tang Grapefruit Juice

- excellent, has the most natural taste of any powdered drink.

This year I dropped Apple drink with no misgivings.

I also used liquid honey which worked out well, although quantity was a little high.

Apricots have increased greatly in price, although still a favourite. A cut in quantity might be suggested. Also, pre-measured amounts might be considered in packing.

This year I started having soup with every dinner. Although it is a bother its very good and useful. I had no complaints of being hungry after dinner.

For next year it may be considered using one or two of Hardee's instant meals for lunch. A case of two meals could be purchased and experimented with on all trips throughout the summer.

This year I ordered food from Silver Foods rather than Bronstein. I was pleased with the service .

#### Equipment

This summer we had the good fortune to get 8 new Grumman canoes. These were a very good addition to our equipment. We also installed gunnel guards on 6 of them and I am pleased to say that these gunnel guards were well worth the money spent on them. They stop a lot of the racket of paddles hitting the gunnel, protect the gunnels themselves, facilitate the tieing down of canoes on the trailer and do many other things that re aesthetically pleasing to the user of aluminum canoes.

The only damage received to any of these canoes was a bent thwart. This thwart was bent when the right wheel fell off the trailer while travelling up to the Park.

We bought more lifejackets this summer. The Floater brand were used more and are much superior for our purposes than the Stems brand. The Stems PFDs performed their job well but the "Floater" also served as a vest to keep people warm. There is a tendency for people to wear the Floater all day long while the Stems are worn only in heavy weather or in rapids. Perhaps we could trade our Stems for some of the Floater canoe-Kayak vests that Kanawana has..

#### SVEA Stoves

- an excellent purchase. They were not used very often but when they were used they did the job well. The intention of buying these stoves was that they would be for emergencies or special situations. They did that job well. They were carried in coffee cans and that worked out well.

The gas cans, however, should be wrapped in 'gaffers' tape to protect them.

Next year the camp should buy a large roll of gaffers tape for use at base camp as well as the regular rolls to put into the canoe repair kit. This, I think, would save some money. This tape is available at most Pascal's stores.

#### Equipment Cont'd

The camp needs more Chicago screws. See Pascal's in Westmount (Sherbrooke Street). Apparently these screws are not made anymore. If this is true a large quantity should be bought. They are the best rivets I have seen for pack repairs and are practically priceless.

We used candle lanterns for the first time. They proved to be a worthwhile investment. Unfortunately, the ones we bought were difficult to 'load' with candles. Some of them are somewhat mangled as a result. There is another brand that has only one sliding bar on a spring to push back to insert the candle. This is a much better idea. For future use, I saw these lanterns in the Mountain Hut.

It might be an idea to look for collapsible tent poles for our 9-man tents. Apparently Finnie Manufacturing Company has some. Should be checked out. Consider that they might be lashed into the canoes especially if groups are of 3 canoes.

We borrowed machetes from K.K. this summer. They were invaluable. Les Voyageurs should buy some so that each trip has one. Leather cases can be made in Arts & Crafts. This piece of equipment should be standard in our trip equipment.

#### Tents & Flys

- some need new ropes. 100% braided cotton size No. 5 should be used. Should be at least 8 feet long each, preferably 10 feet. The ends should be sealed. P-tex candles would be ideal. These may be bought in any ski shop for about 75¢ each.

Some of the axes in stock should be put to the grinding wheel. It might be an idea to purchase one more long handled axe.

Unfortunately, the packs are not in as good shape as they could be. In order to be fully operational in 1980 the staff of Les Voyageurs should plan on at least two full days of pack repairs in pre-camp.

#### Maps

This year I put together a new master map and devised a system of planning trips. The master map (scale 1:125,000) contains all the possible tripping area for Parc de la Verendrye and its environs. Marked in red are all the routes that have previously been done by groups of Les Voyageurs. From this map the tripper may plan his basic route. Once this is done, he may take out the large scale maps (1:50,000) to get a better view of the country. These maps are filed numerically.

Maps Cont'd

In addition, each map of this scale has a master map. This master is not to be taken on trips. There are others in the file that are trip maps. This system permits us to accumulate information on routes on one map that will always be in camp. It is the responsibility of the Director and his staff to ensure that these maps are updated after each trip. This system is not complete but the inventory included in this report (appendix III) indicates which maps do not yet have masters and which maps need to be purchased. Maps may be bought at Circam in Complexe Desjardins.

First Aid Kits

We doubled the size of our kits this summer, each trip having two. This was a good move especially as one kit would be inadequate for a group of nine people. Again, check lists should be drawn up and typed. I have included one such list in the appendix (IV) but it is not quite complete.

I think it might be an idea to include vitamins in our kits for regular use. If the menu is examined by a dietitian then this idea may or may not be worthwhile.

All trippers should have their St. Johns Ambulance First Aid course. As such the tripper should be the only person to carry any type of drugs in his kit. This kit should be off limits to anyone but the tripper and perhaps second staff members.